



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Sawtooth National Forest
Minidoka Ranger District

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cc: Lynn

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APR 06 2009

U.S. DEPT. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

File Code: 2800

Date: April 3, 2009

Mr. Michael Pauletto
I & P Investments
11204 NW 37th Court
Vancouver, WA 98685

Dear Mr. Pauletto,

On March 30, 2009, Mr. Dennis Jorgensen of I&P Investments contacted Sawtooth National Forest Minerals Administrator Heidie Torrealday regarding final release of bonding remaining for reclamation work associated with the Clarks Basin Quarry Area. In April 2007, the surety bond amount was reduced from \$20,245 to \$3150 based on earthwork that had been completed to date. Concerns remained regarding inadequate vegetation established in the reclaimed area and the infestation of cheatgrass. In July 2007, I&P Investments reimbursed the Forest Service for the cost of controlling the cheatgrass. It was recommended later that season that in early 2008 broadcast seeding be implemented with a seed mix recommended by Lucas Phillips, Minidoka Rangeland Specialist in order to control further infestation. The Sawtooth National Forest has received no indication from you as to whether this recommendation for perennial seeding was implemented.

Before this file can be closed, the cheatgrass must be controlled and perennial vegetation established on the majority of the site. The criteria for revegetation success is that disturbed areas will have a minimum of 75 percent ground cover that has been maintained for 2 consecutive years over 90 percent of the area reclaimed and that the ground cover will be comparable to an adjacent reference area. An inspection of the area would be required in order to determine the quality of vegetation that has been established. A field inspection would not be possible until the weather was more conducive for a site visit as well as to provide an opportunity for the local vegetation to establish.

If you have questions regarding this matter please contact Heidie Torrealday, Geologist and Minerals Administrator at 208.737.3224 to discuss the matter further.

Sincerely,

SCOTT C. NANNENGA
Minidoka District Ranger

cc: Lynn Kunzler, Utah Division of Oil, Gas & Mining, P.O. Box 145801, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

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